

Conference Abstract

# Introduction to the Symposium: Improving access to hidden scientific data in the Biodiversity Heritage Library

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## Abstract

This will be a short introduction to the symposium: *Improving access to hidden scientific data in the Biodiversity Heritage Library*. The symposium will present examples of how the Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL) collaborates across the international consortium and with community partners around the world to help enhance access to the biodiversity literature. Literature repositories, particularly the BHL collections, have been recognized as critical to the global scientific community. A diverse global user community propels BHL and BHL users to develop access tools beyond the standard “title, author, subject” search. BHL utilizes the Global Names Recognition and Discovery (GNRD) service to identify taxonomic names within text rendered by Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software, enabling scientific name searches and creation of species-specific bibliographies, critical to systematics research. In this symposium, we will hear from international partners and creative users making data from the BHL globally accessible for the kinds of larger-scale analysis enabled by BHL’s full-text search capabilities and Application Program Interface (API) protocols. In addition to taxonomic name services already incorporated in BHL, the consortium has also begun exploring georeferencing strategies for better searching and potential connections with key biodiversity resources such as the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). With many different institutions around the world participating,

the ability to work together virtually is critical for a seamless end product that meets the demands of the international community as well as the needs of local institutions.

## **Keywords**

BHL; Biodiversity Heritage Library; georeferencing; taxonomic namefinding; global virtual organization

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